

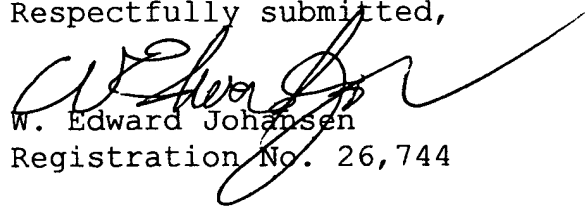
is rotatably coupled to the binding base plate. A locking mechanism securely couples the rail to the disc. The binding of Harris does not include a binding base plate.

The applicant also respectfully contends that the combination of snowboard, binding and mount of claim includes a snowboard, a rail, a binding base plate and a locking mechanism. The snowboard has a center-line and a channel that longitudinally extends along the center-line. The rail is disposed in the channel and is fixedly coupled thereto. The rail is a flexible member and has a key-slot and two series of parallel notches. The binding base plate is disposed on the snowboard. The disc is rotatably coupled to the binding base plate. The locking mechanism securely couples the rail to the disc.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Carlson (U. S. Patent No. 6,189,899). The applicant will file a terminal disclaimer after he has consulted further with his patent attorney.

Date: July 27, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


W. Edward Johansen
Registration No. 26,744